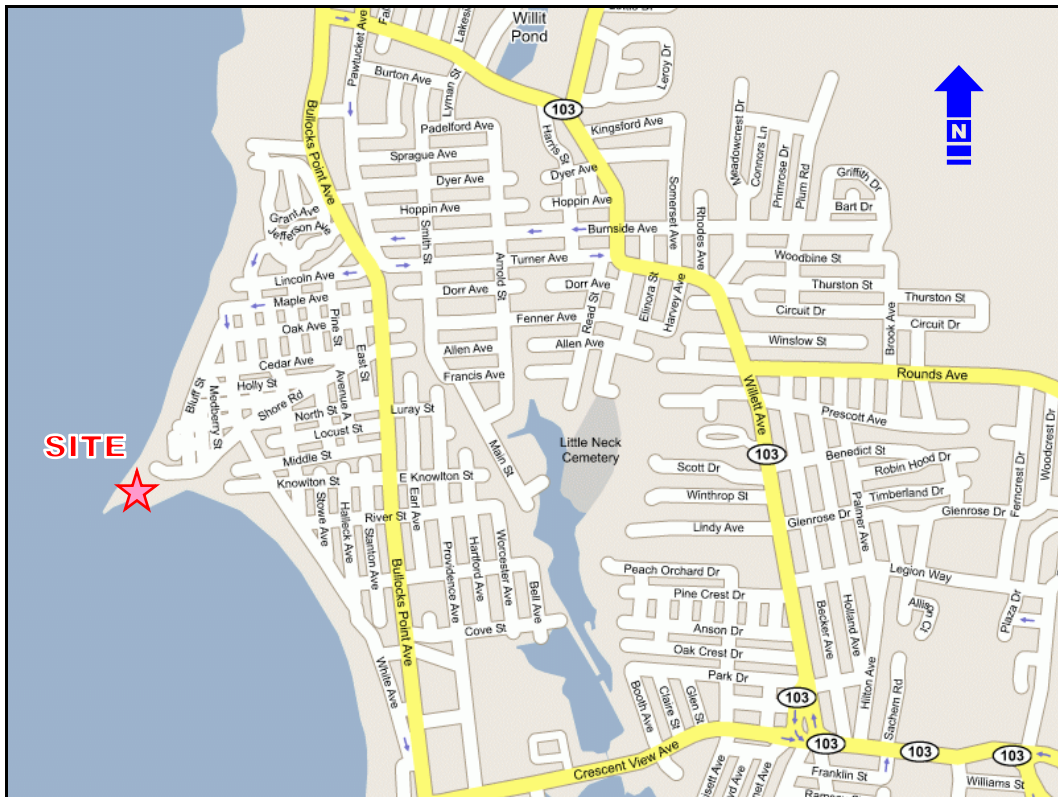


Site No. 3

SABIN POINT

East Providence
Shore Road



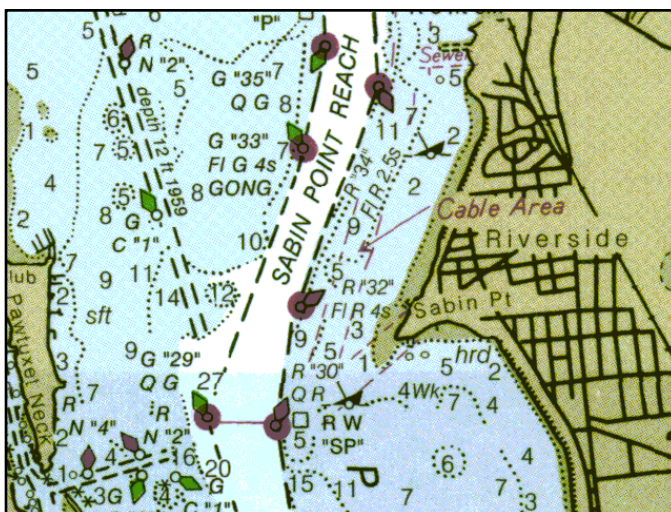
SABIN POINT

Site Description

Sabin Point Park is a city-owned and operated public park located at the end of Shore Road in the Riverside district of East Providence. Sited in a predominantly residential area, this mixed-use public recreation area includes a small L-shaped fishing pier, boat launch/dock, playground, picnic area, and pleasantly landscaped park area. The shoreline feature consists of a sharp peninsula extending into the Providence River, offering ample space for fishing along both the westerly and southerly shorelines (the latter of which includes the fishing pier). As a well-established Upper Bay fishing site, fishing within the park can become quite crowded during weekends, particularly when runs of recreational species are known to be in the area.

Location Assessment

Bay Location. Sabin Point is located along the westerly shoreline along the lower reach of the Providence River. From the Online Recreational Fishing Survey, common catch within this region consists predominantly of Striped Bass and Bluefish (spring - fall), which is consistent with that reported by anglers at the time of site visit. The steady presence of these fisheries has sustained the park's status as a popular Upper Bay fishing site.



Waters in the vicinity of this site do not meet aquatic life support criteria. Causes for water quality impairment include low oxygen concentration, presence of viral and bacterial pathogens, nutrient enrichment, and metals contamination. These waters are classified as SB1(a) and are likely impacted by pathogens from approved wastewater discharges and combined sewer overflows (see Appendix B). These waters are permanently closed to shellfishing, and the beach area within the park is well posted with Department of Health signs stating that the water is unsafe for swimming. One longtime resident noted that water quality in the area has noticeably deteriorated over the years.

Other water uses in the vicinity of Sabin Point consist mainly of small-craft boating, supported by the boat launch at the site. The main navigational channel of the Providence River is well offset from the shoreline at this location (> 1000 feet).

Land Location. Sabin Point Park is located in a moderately dense residential area off Bullocks Point Avenue in Riverside and is accessed via Shore Road, a narrow local/residential street. Although access to a public recreation facility by local roads is somewhat undesirable, residents of surrounding neighborhoods have more immediate access to, and are most likely to take advantage of, the recreational opportunities offered by the park. The site location is somewhat removed from major highways in the region (approximately a 15-20 minute drive from Interstate 195).

Environmental Constraints and Permitting. Coastal features of the site consist of a manmade shoreline (a built riprap wall extending around the point, see Photos 3 and 6), a small exposed sandy area at the tip of the point, and a sandy beach east of the fishing pier on the southerly shoreline. There is no known eelgrass in this area and waters at this location are classified as Type 2 (Low-Intensity Use) by the CRMC.

Facilities Assessment

The strongest attributes of the park's fishing facilities are its ample shoreline frontage and conduciveness to an enjoyable fishing experience. Anglers fishing from the westerly manmade shoreline were observed using crevasses in the riprap slope as makeshift rod holders; several also brought chairs to sit in the shade of one of the several nearby trees along the park perimeter (Photo 6). The entire length of the manmade shoreline is lined with benches, and the interior of the park offers quality landscape aesthetics which enhance the recreational value of the site.

As noted, a small L-shaped pier is located along the southerly shoreline of Sabin Point (Photos 3, 8). The structure is in fair condition (some railing elements have been replaced) and includes fishing-friendly features such as sloped railings and cutting board, however this pier can only provide a viable fishing opportunity for a maximum of 10-12 anglers. Its short length (approximately 60 feet) may also not offer an appreciably better fishing opportunity compared to fishing from the manmade shoreline.

In general, the site appears to be handicap accessible throughout (including both the manmade shoreline and the pier structure). The most apparent limitation to the site's efficacy is the relative lack of parking compared to its fishing capacity. The site provides for approximately 30 spaces amongst 3 small lots, plus a small amount of roadside parking within the site (which while posted as no parking, does not appear to be enforced). Posted open hours for the park are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., though many anglers noted that this too is not stringently enforced by local police. Located approximately ½ mile from Bullocks Point Avenue and the East Bay Bike Path, the park is reasonably accessible by foot, bicycle, and public transit.

Existing Site Conditions

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>Existing Fishing Facilities</i>			X	
<i>Parking</i>		X		
<i>Compatibility with Surrounding Land / Water Uses</i>		X		
<i>Statewide Transportation Accessibility / Public Transit</i>			X	
<i>Site Aesthetics</i>			X	
	Low	Medium	High	
<i>Water Quality (see Appendix B)</i>	X			

Priority for Capital Improvements: **Low**

Despite exhibiting relatively poor water quality and species diversity characteristics, Sabin Point Park currently functions as a productive Upper Bay fishing site and appears to be maximizing its potential as such. The site's capacity for fishing use is governed by its relatively small on-site parking capacity and location within a primarily residential section of East Providence. Regardless of the fact that there are no readily available properties in the vicinity of the site which could be used to provide additional parking, it is important to consider that the addition of parking would likely increase demand and use of the facility; which in turn could potentially incur adverse impacts on the residential neighborhood through which the site is accessed.

Though not integral to the continued effectiveness of this shoreline fishing site, improvements to the existing fishing pier facilities and the addition of public restrooms would enhance the public's enjoyment of the facility. While certainly a credit to the fishing facilities of the site, the existing L-pier (Photos 3, 8) only offers fishing opportunities to a limited number of anglers. If and when this structure is replaced, it appears that a moderately longer structure could be constructed at this location. The site would also benefit from the addition of restrooms, as several anglers interviewed noted there are currently no public sanitary facilities in the vicinity of the park. The cost of implementing either or both of these improvements would range from moderate to high, depending on the specific type and extents of proposed work.



Photo 1. Entrance to Sabin Point Park looking west.



Photo 2. Recreation facilities located at easterly side of Sabin Point Park.



Photo 3. Looking southwest along shoreline to fishing pier.



Photo 4. Park path and landscaping looking southwest to Sabin Point.



Photo 5. Boat launch and parking area at northwest corner of park.



Photo 6. Looking south along shoreline from boat ramp to Sabin Point.



Photo 7. General parking area immediately south of boat launch.



Photo 8. Sabin Point Park fishing pier looking south.